

Revised 10-8 155-1464
overly

29 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: 25X1A9a [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: District of Columbia Jury Commission - Removal from Jury Rolls

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1. [REDACTED], Assistant Director for Research and Reports was requested to appear before the Jury Commission on 22 June in order that they might determine whether or not his name should be permanently removed from the rolls. The stated reason for his appearance was that he was excused in 1952, 1953 and 1954 when called for jury duty and it appeared to be in the interest of both Mr.

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[REDACTED] and the Commission to determine whether or not his name should remain on the rolls.

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2. I accompanied [REDACTED] for his appearance and was with him when his case was taken up by Mrs. Eunice B. Thomas, Chairman of the Jury Commission. The hearing was informal and private.

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[REDACTED] had filled in a two-page questionnaire which the Commission sent to him and this was retained by Mrs. Thomas. The only questions which required care in answering because of the sensitivity of Agency business were two related to his position and employer. Because the Security Office would not allow an exact statement of [REDACTED] position to be put on the record, these questions were answered in a general sense by describing him as a senior executive of CIA. At the hearing he explained the reason for this indefinitiveness and told Mrs. Thomas that he was actually an Assistant Director of the Agency.

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3. Mrs. Thomas was completely in sympathy with [REDACTED]'s position that the only question involved was whether or not attention to his Agency business or services as a juror would best serve the national interest. She seemed to accept without question the importance of his position and the work of the Agency and unofficially informed us that her decision was to remove his name from the rolls.

4. In the event that this same problem arises in the future in respect to an Agency employee whose position is such that we deem it advisable to have his name stricken from the jury rolls it is recommended that the employee be briefed on the basis of our experience with this case and allowed to appear without a representative from this office accompanying him. There is very little that counsel can do for the individual except to offer him moral support if he is the type that is timid about such appearances. It is also possible that another member of the Commission might not be as friendly as Mrs. Thomas and might resent the presence of counsel in such an informal hearing. If the employee holds a position of some consequence and can be allowed to state verbally to the Commissioner his general title or grade he can probably expect to be stricken from the rolls on the ground that his regular work is as much in the public interest as service on a jury.

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